

*Calcutta, 15th April, 1942.*

Message from Sir Stafford Cripps to Mr. J. Jones, C.I.E.,  
Chairman of the Indian Tea Association.

I have heard of the excellent and most helpful work your Association are doing on the Assam Burma border and am most grateful to you. I am sure your continued and energetic assistance will be of vital value to the defence of India and Burma.



VICEROY'S CAMP.

India,

I am reminded that March 3rd will be the second anniversary of the beginning of a great work, the Manipur Road project, in which the Indian Tea Association has played so large a part. Since I was so closely concerned as Commander-in-Chief with this work, which enabled the withdrawal of the Burma army to be carried out in a safe and orderly manner and has since been the main line of communication for a large proportion of the troops engaged in the re-occupation of Burma, I take the opportunity of this anniversary to express to all concerned my appreciation of the value of the services they have rendered to the war effort—the management of the Indian Tea Association by their efficient organisation, the planters by the way they have carried on with reduced labour, and the labourers themselves who have worked with such good spirit. I saw the work myself on a number of occasions so am able to appreciate the difficulties overcome and the spirit shown.

NAGPUR

25th, February 1944.

*Wavell*  
— F.M.